Implementation of N.F.S.M.

†566.SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to implement National Food Security Mission (NFSM) in all the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has developed any mechanism to review the out come of this mission;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any criteria has been adopted for the selection of districts under this scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The National Food Security Mission (NFSM) is already implemented in 312 identified districts of 17 States with three components namely, National Food Security Mission-Rice (NFSM-Rice) in 136 identified districts of 14 States; National Food Security Mission-Wheat (NFSM-Wheat) in 141 identified districts of 9 States and National Food Security Mission-Pulses (NFSM-Pulses) in 171 identified districts of 14 States. There is no proposal to implement the programme in other States.

(c) and (d) A strong monitoring mechanism of the programme at the national, state and district levels have been formulated in a regular manner for every crop season to review the outcome of the Mission. The progress of the Mission is also reviewed at the Regional Level in various Regional meetings organised for the purpose. Besides, provision for concurrent evaluation is also there under the programme.

(e) and (f) The districts included under NFSM have been selected based on certain criteria such as for NFSM-Rice, those districts were identified which have more than 50,000 ha area under rice and productivity less than the State's average productivity; for wheat, the districts in which irrigation coverage under wheat is more than 50% and productivity is less than State's average were identified. The districts for implementation of NFSM-Pulses have been selected based on existing large area under pulses, potential for area expansion through inter-cropping and utilization of rice follows.

American pressure on Indian Agriculture policy

†567.SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that America or its various organizations are putting undue pressure on India's Agriculture Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of various agreements signed and the commissions constituted between America and India to encourage Agricultural research and trade between the two countries and the benefits India got so far as a result of this?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Details of various agreements / Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), etc., signed between India and USA to encourage agricultural cooperation, research and trade between the two countries alongwith their status and benefits from the resulted activities as available with this Department are given in the Statement.

Statement

The details of various Agreements/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) etc. signed between India and America to encourage agricultural, cooperation, research and trade.

Sl. No.	Details of MoU/ Agreements/ commissions	Status and the benefits from the resultant activities
1	2	3
1.	Joint declaration for Agriculture Knowledge Initiative (AKI) signed on 12.11.2005 between the Ministry of Agriculture of India and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) with the objective of re-energizing the India-US partnership.	The four areas identified for cooperation in the work plan are-(i) human resources and Institutional Capacity Building; (ii) Agri-processing and marketing; (iii) emerging technologies-biotechnology; and (iv) Natural Resources Management. So far, 29 Indian scientists/faculty members have received training in USA under the India US Borlaug Fellowship Programme. Ten collaborative projects have been initiated and 14 joint workshops have been organized in India. Indian scientists have participated in three workshops in the USA.
2.	MoU between Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Cornell University, USA signed on 3.11.98 for cooperation in the field of agricultural research.	A work plan under the MoU has been signed and the areas of interest identified include Plant Biotechnology, Education and e-learning and Food Processing.
3.	MoU between ICAR and IOWA States University, USA for cooperation in the field of agricultural research signed on 28.1.98	The areas of mutual interest identified include: (1) Sustain-ability issues in agriculture; (2) Research in food and natural resource policy; (3) Research on water quality for crop, livestock and fisheries production systems; (4) Home economics and family related issues; (5) Utilization of agricultural products for value addition; (6) Meat processing and quality standards; (7) Livestock diseases; (8) Swine production; (9) Training in developing research grant proposals; and (10) Training for human resource development.
4.	Bilateral focus group on agriculture, set up in the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation in 2005 under the aegis of India-US Trade Policy Forum.	The Group meets from time to time to resolve issues pertaining to agricultural trade bilaterally. The interaction in this forum has led to resolutions of many agricultural trade issues which are of concern to India and US including market access of Indian Mangoes in the US.

1	2	3
5.	The Agricultural Commercialization and Enterprise (ACE) project.	The objective of the ACE programme is to improve the investment environment for private agri-business in post farm horticulture sector in India.

Food security situation

568. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that food security situation in the country is quite alarming;

(b) whether it is also a fact that per capita availability of foodgrains has gone down to 70's level;

(c) if so, whether Government is considering to take up steps to overcome the situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The highest ever foodgrains production of 230.78 million tones was achieved in 2007-08 which was 13.5 million tones higher than 2006-07 (II Advance Estimates, 2008-09). Similarly, the foodgrains availability has also increased to 442.8 grams per day per capita in 2007 against 424.3 grams per day per capita in 1976.

(c) and (d) National Food Security Mission is implemented in 312 districts of 17 States of the country to achieve additional production of 20 million tones (10 million tones of rice, 8 million tones of wheat and 2 million tones of pulses) of foodgrains by 2011-12 to meet the growing demand and achieve food and nutritional security in the country. The total outlay of National Food Security, Mission is Rs.4882.48 crore for XI Plan (2007-08 to 2011-12).

Introduction of SRI

569. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new System of Rice Intensification (SRI) has been introduced in the country with the support of World Bank which sharply cuts the use of water by 32 per cent and yields 40 to 80 per cent high per hectare than conventional rice cultivation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and fiscal support provided by the World Bank for this purpose;

(c) whether Government will propose to introduce SRI in all parts of the country to boost rice cultivation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The System of Rice Intensification (SRI) technique has received considerable attention globally including India due to its potential for yield improvement and water saving. The main features of this system include transplanting of young seedlings singly in a square pattern with wide spacing; using more of organic fertilizers; and keeping the paddy field moist with intermittent drying and wetting